

REMARKS

With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 17 and 18. Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application.

1. Formalities

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and for confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for initialing the references listed on form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 24, 2004. However, the Examiner's initials are offset by one line on the form. Therefore, Applicant requests that the Examiner provide another form, properly initialed, in the next office communications.

2 Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0035054 to Ohmura ("Ohmura"). For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a printer that comprises an "index-picture producing means for producing an index picture in which grouped frames and non-grouped individual frames are arranged and a single representative frame is respectively chosen for each group of the grouped frames." The Examiner contends that Ohmura discloses the claimed index-picture producing means. Specifically, the Examiner contends that Ohmura discloses the selection of folders when images

are taken (i.e., the claimed grouped frames) and that Fig. 22 discloses the claimed arrangement.

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Ohmura discloses that when images are read in (taken in) from digital camera 6, the images files are recorded in a newly created folder, e.g., “990401-990402,” in common folder memory 4f. (Paragraph 0109.) Even when the digital camera 6 has a folder structure, the folder structure is created in the newly created folder, e.g. “990401-990402.” (Paragraphs 0126-0128.) Fig. 22 of Ohmura clearly discloses that the images (frames) are arranged in a hierarchical configuration in the order of pictures, thumbnails, folders and calendar years. (See also Paragraph 0211.) There is no disclosure or suggestion that images may be indexed that are not part of a hierarchical structure. Therefore, Applicant submits that all images (frames) in Ohmura are “grouped” into folders before an index picture can be produced, and the index picture is only of grouped images (frames).

Accordingly, Ohmura does not disclose or suggest the claimed index picture in which grouped frames and non-grouped individual frames are arranged as set forth in claim 1.

Because claims 8 and 14 recite features similar to those given above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 8 and 14 are patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant submits that claims 2-7, 9-13, 15 and 16 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

3. New Claims

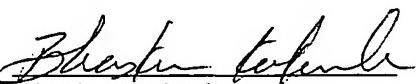
With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 17 and 18. Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies, as well as the features set forth therein.

4. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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